Mr. Avalakonda Reddi.—

Why was not at least remission of wet assessment sanctioned under the circumstances ?

Third Member of Council.—

If applications are made, they will be disposed of as favourably as the rules will allow.

Mr. S. C. Mailiah.—

Sub-Question (17) is whether dry rates cannot be levied if the anicut cannot be restored soon but the answer is that the work will soon be taken up. May I know whether dry rates will be levied ?

Third Member of Council —

It is not possible to do that ; but there are rules for remitting one-half of the wet assessment in all deserving cases, provided application is made.

Mr. M. C. Linge Gowda.—

Have not such applications been made ?

Third Member of Council.—

No.

BILLS.

AMENDMENT OF THE INFANT MARRIAGE PREVENTION REGULATION X OF 1894.—*contd.*

MR. B. GOPALACHAR observed that this was a big social and religious question and could not be disposed of at one stretch, especially as members had not consulted their respective constituents about it. It was necessary that before placing the Bill before the Assembly for discussion, the opinions of Mathadhipathis as well as the orthodox public were ascertained. In the alternative, Government should at least appoint a special committee for ascertaining it. For these reasons he said that it was better to defer consideration of the Bill.

MR. VENKATASWAMI CHETTY of Chickballapur, in supporting the question under discussion, said that even in actual practice, girls were being married after the twelfth year, due to various reasons and exceptions to this were few

and far between. Besides, it was not always possible to act strictly according to the Shastras.

MR. P. SITARAMAIYA opposed the measure. Among the Hindus, marriage was one of the six essential ceremonies, and whereas in western countries marriage was regarded as a contract either for life or for stated periods, it was a life-long tie between man and wife among Hindus. There were instances, of course, of long established customs having been departed from in certain matters, but such variations never occurred in the case of marriages especially among the Brahmins. The ancients had instituted the system of early marriage, the actual consummation, however, taking place only after a certain stage of development. This system was also being copied by a number of Non-Brahmin communities, and this showed that there must be many virtues in it. The system of post-puberty marriage in western countries, which was based on climatic conditions, had given room for various evils on account of which the system was being condemned by doctors, sexual psychologists and others. If it could be argued that the system of early marriages in India was responsible for a number of young women being left widows, it could as well be argued that this very circumstance gave them scope to set a noble example to the country by exercising self-control and devoting themselves to the service of humanity. But if there were evils resulting from the system, they were being realized and the number of early marriages was showing a decline. There was thus no need for the State to interfere and legislate ; if this was done and early marriages altogether abolished, it would lead to practical difficulties : the bride would not have any interval for preparations for household duties between the time of marriage and of her having to go to the husband's house ; and daughters born of aged parents would be left helpless, being unmarried. But in spite of these considerations, if the system required modification, the best way of bringing it about was by propaganda work and by educating public opinion.

MR. K. SURIAH was of opinion that this was a social question and no interference on the part of the State was desirable.

MR. SRINIVASIENGAR of Yelandur said that the existing state of things did not require any change. Referring to the argument that early marriages were responsible for the high death-rate in India he observed that there were a number of other causes leading to it, such as epidemic

diseases. But as the number of early marriages were becoming fewer in recent years, it could be expected that things would improve in time to come, and so no legislation was called for.

MR. S. V. GURUMURTIACHARYA observed that whatever the ancient practice was, girls were at present being married only when they were 12 years of age and no harm need be apprehended by passing a legislation fixing this limit. Action on these lines was being asked for by a number of educated women of the present day, and their arguments deserved every consideration. This was, he said, the object of nominating lady members to self-governing institutions. There was the authority alike of the Indian Medical Science and of scientists of the West that the system of early marriage had manifold evils, chief of which was the marked degeneracy from generation to generation. For these reasons the member strongly supported the Bill.

MR. JATRA NAIK favoured the principles of the Bill placed before the Assembly. He said that the worst evil of early marriages was the begetting of weaklings and short-lived children. He added that if particular communities had any special reasons in favour of early marriages they might be allowed to have the system ; but to the other communities the new Bill will be of immense help.

MR. V. VENKATAPPA strongly supported the measure and said that the principle of Government intervention in this matter had already been agreed to when the minimum age of a marriageable girl was fixed at 8 years. All that was sought to be done under the proposed legislation was to raise this minimum slightly. Persons, he said, who were well versed in the Shastras and to whose opinions great weight was attached had expressed a verdict that, strictly speaking, marriage was to be done within 20 hours after a female child was born. This being impracticable, it was all the same whether a girl was married in her 8th year or 10th or 12th. Responsible persons had opined that the high rate of mortality in India was due mainly to the system of early marriages. Apart from that, this system could not be supported from the common sense point of view. A girl who was only 8 years could not understand the significance of marriage or what her duties towards the mother-in-law or father-in-law or husband were. Viewed from the point of view of everyday life, this system required to be given up forthwith, because, especially among the Vokkaligas, the mother-in-law and the daughter-in-law

never got on well, and this was the cause of untold misery in many a family. This could be easily averted if marriage was between a bride and a bridegroom who were both in a position to realise their responsibilities of life. The argument that in the absence of early marriages, young women might yield to temptations, was a slur on the character of Indian parents. He did not entertain any such fear in the case of daughters brought up in a healthy atmosphere.

MR. H. R. T. RAJAGOPALA MUDALIAR expressed surprise that a Bill like the one under discussion should have been brought up. The most ancient nation in the world, which had withstood the onslaughts of many an enemy and so successfully come out of countless political cataclysms need not be asked to modify a custom which was observed from time immemorial, simply because certain Governments or nations of a recent origin introduced different practices of their own. If such radical changes should be resorted to, he said, it was time that all the religious institutions and their presiding heads were done away with and each individual did as he liked. If post-puberty marriage was bad for the Brahmins, it was equally bad for any other community, and it would be wise for the latter to take the advice of the former. But whether or not they cared to do it, this was a matter concerning society and religion, and the State was not entitled to interfere in it. Even if the Government thought it fit to legislate in such matters of individual liberty and birth right, the law could not be easily enforced and its working properly supervised. If a law of the kind worked well elsewhere or if the post-puberty system of marriage was found to be free from evils, he asked why there should have been frequent references to Temporary Marriage Bills, divorce suits and unmarried mothers' societies. These showed that the Hindu system of marriage was the best and there was nothing to warrant any change in it. He was therefore opposed to the Bill.

MR. HOSAKOPPA KRISHNA RAO agreed that the object underlying the Bill was laudable, and people were beginning to realize that early marriage should be avoided as far as possible. But this was not a matter for the Government to interfere ; even if the measure was passed, the enforcement of the law was beset with many practical difficulties and it was not possible to find out the delinquents and punish them, in the nooks and corners of the State. Social reform, he said, must emanate from the people themselves. The Dharma Shastras were so worded

that the interpretation of their meaning could change with the times. So even if there was opposition to raising the marriageable age just at present, it might come into effect in course of time. For the State to interfere, there must be sufficient reasons, and the opinions of the orthodox public should be ascertained beforehand either by giving wide publication to the proposed measure and calling for opinions, or by consulting heads of the religious institutions or appointing a special committee to ascertain their opinion. There was no positive proof that the death-rate was entirely due to the system of early marriage; deaths there would be even if the marriageable age was raised. The real reason lay in that the representations of the people were not paid adequate attention to, that the essential needs of the people were not provided, and that people were not above want. Unless these were gone into and definite action taken to relieve the situation, there was no use of merely legislating against early marriages. Once this was done it was not easy for the people to get it modified later, even if it was found that the law was harmful. In a State in which had been born the three great Acharyas, the Government had grave responsibilities to discharge: it should proceed very cautiously and calmly consider the consequences of any proposed legislation. There was no hurry and the member therefore hoped that the mover would see his way to withdraw the Bill for the present.

MR. C. SUBBA RAO pointed out that while it was agreed on all hands that infant marriages were bad for the nation as a whole, it could not at the same time be said that the only remedy lay in fixing the marriageable age at 16 and 21 in the case of girls and boys, respectively. These were arbitrary figures and the Bill under discussion did not give room for modifying that limit. The question before the House, therefore, reduced itself to a plea for post-puberty marriage. The communities among whom early marriage was in vogue were the Brahmins, Vaisyas and probably a few others. It was not therefore open to members of other communities to pass a measure which did not concern themselves. It was being argued, he said, by the Moslems, in connection with the proposed prevention of cow-slaughter, that this was enjoined on them by their religion and so cow-killing should not be prevented by legislation. If in a matter concerning the Mahommed an community the State was asked not to interfere, he asked whether this same community could ask another community,

by legislation, to give up a practice enjoined by the Shastras. Even if a law was made on the lines proposed, the member urged that the Brahmins, Vaisyas, etc., should not be brought under the purview of the law, because every individual had a right to believe in his own religion and act according to it ; and it was not for the others to decry them. He was therefore opposed to the measure.

MR. SALAR KHAN SAB stated that the Mahommedans were obliged to have their daughters married before the 9th year of birth, according to their religion. He therefore requested that an exception should be made of the Mahommedans, in case any law was going to be made in the matter.

MR. BELUR SRINIVASA IYENGAR feared that the measure before the House sought to cut at the root of Hinduism. The question of marriage was not merely social, it was also religious; and in the course of the marriage definite promises were exchanged between the bride and the bridegroom, to be observed throughout life. Many an ancient custom was not observed due to political and other causes, but marriage was the one institution which all Hindus respected and followed in strict conformity with the religious injunctions. Such an institution, he said, should not be interfered with by any one, and he therefore appealed to the mover to withdraw the Bill.

MR. RAMESVARA SASTRY also repeated that this Bill would go against the fundamental provisions of Hinduism and that those who knew little or nothing of the Vedic injunctions were not entitled to make any changes in such provisions. The sacred texts prohibited post-puberty marriage; they prescribed the age within which a girl was to be married; and it was also laid down that a girl who was more than 10 years of age should be considered, for purposes of marriage, as having attained her age. If there were instances of late marriages, they were due not to any intention to delay them but to various inconveniences such as inability to secure suitable bridegrooms. In such cases there were special ceremonies provided to make amends for the late marriage. All this was done because it was not possible to say at which particular age a girl would attain puberty. There were cases, he said, in which this happened at the 10th, 11th or 12th year, and as matters stood at present, it would be impossible to get bridegrooms for one's daughters after puberty. Who was prepared to hold himself responsible for such a plight and to see that such girls were married to suitable husbands? In times gone by, even

religious and social matters were being administered by the ruler of the land, but the present-day rulers had left their subjects to manage such affairs for themselves. Ever since this practice came into vogue the people were getting these affairs administered through their own respective religious institutions, and it was only fair that these institutions were not interfered with. As regards the high mortality rate and such other evils alleged to have been due to early marriages, he said that this was due to so many other causes and asked what steps the Government had so far taken to prevent them. The situation could not be expected to improve merely by raising the marriageable age, and the only effect of State interference in a matter like this was to create discontent in the minds of the Hindu population as a whole. He therefore hoped that the Bill would not be pressed.

MR. VENKATASAMI CHETTY strongly protested against any measure of this kind being accepted by the Government. He thought that a measure like this would enable the Police to foist false cases against people celebrating the marriage of their daughters saying that a particular girl was below the age fixed under the law, and that it would also require the appointment of a Medical Officer to each village or locality to certify to the age of the girl. Then again, if such a law were passed, it would just be possible that hereafter some other member would bring up another private Bill making inter-marriages between communities compulsory. He thought that such measures going to the root of society should not be accepted by Government.

MR. SIDDALINGADEVARU vehemently protested against undertaking any legislation wounding the religious susceptibilities of any community. Each community, he said, had its own ideas of its superiority over the other community, and it had its own liberty of action in social matters irrespective of what other community did. He also thought that it was not proper for a member of a different community to suggest a particular mode of action for the guidance of any other community. The proposed measure practically applied to the Brahmins, Vaisyas and Veerashaivas and to no other community, and as such, it was not open to the latter communities to interfere with the habits, customs and sentiments of the former by way of legislation. Each of the three communities mentioned above had its own religious head and unless any change was approved by him, it could not be adopted, as a matter of course, even by law. He also said that in a matter of this kind, there was absolutely no use of

forcing the votes of other communities against those on whom it worked hard. In these circumstances, he said, that the matter should not be disposed by votes.

Another Mohamedan member said that the law should not be made applicable to Mohamedans.

In replying to the Debate, KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN explained that it was far from his object to wound the religious sentiments of any community. His main object was to give a lead, if possible, to British India in respect of a Reform, which was considered to be very desirable by very influential sections of people from Delhi throughout Southern India. He also said that he brought up this question before the Assembly at the earnest request of many of his Brahmin friends and also by the associations of ladies in the Mysore State and elsewhere. He had also Mahazars in support of the request containing the names of thousands of ladies, who wanted a Reform of the kind suggested in the measure. It was not true that he brought this matter before the Assembly to influence the judgment of Government by securing the largest number of votes in favour of it.

Referring to the various criticisms of the opponents to the measure, he said that there was considerable difference of opinion in regard to the particular age at which the marriage of a girl should be celebrated. He himself suggested 16 years, but that he had no objection to reduce it to 14 or even 12 years. He was aware that the matter could not be settled at one sitting, but that a continuous agitation should be set up for a series of years before any definite result could be obtained. In this view, he craved permission to postpone the discussion on this measure at the Dasara Session of the Assembly.

THE DEWAN said that it could not be done, but that there was no objection to its being brought up again.

KHAN BAHADUR MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN thereupon appealed to the members to calmly think over the matter, if possible, in consultation with their constituents and come up before the next Assembly equipped with better knowledge of the subject, when he would raise the same discussion again at the next Session.

The measure was, thereupon, withdrawn.

General Discussion on the Budget.

MR. G. B. RAGHAVENDRACHAR opened the discussion by saying that it was usual in the Provincial Legislative

Councils to preface the Budget discussion by the presentation of a financial statement by the Finance member of Government. It would have been a very great convenience, if a similar thing had been done in Mysore.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL said that the Financial Secretary's memorandum had been placed in the hands of the members 10 days before the meeting and that the members had ample leisure to study every detail of the Budget therefrom.

MR. RAGHAVENDRACHAR thought that that was not sufficient.

With reference to the income under Commercial concerns, he said that in the case of some concerns, the gross income had been given, while in the case of others, only net income. He thought that any one system should be followed rather than different systems.

Referring to the Reserves, he said that the Government had utilised as much as 10 lakhs from the Irrigation Reserve to balance the Budget, and had also shown a surplus of one lakh of rupees. There were 5 kinds of Reserves maintained by the Financial Department, of which four Reserve Funds had already been exhausted leaving only one, namely, the Famine Insurance Fund. In regard to the latter, he said that while it was obligatory some years ago to provide a sum of about 5 lakhs annually to this fund, latterly this provision was not only stopped, but even the interest on it had been utilised towards the annual expenditure. He was of opinion that if Reserves were to be drawn upon in this way year after year, within the next few years, there would be no Reserve left making it difficult for the Government to balance the Budget.

THE DEWAN replied that there was no object in starving the Irrigation Works of the State and hoarding money in the Reserves, but the object of Government was to utilise a portion of the Reserves to the best advantage of the people and in this view, they had utilised 9 lakhs out of the Irrigation Reserve Fund for irrigation purposes, which, he thought, the members would not consider to be wrong in principle.

MR. RAGHAVENDRACHAR said that all the same, there should be some appreciable amount left to the credit of each Reserve Fund.

A sum of about 65 lakhs had been shown as income under Excise. While reminding the Dewan of his promise last year that the income would be appreciably reduced, he said that the income had increased and that no steps had

been taken to reduce the Drink evil. He also pointed out that while Government should have made earnest attempts to discourage the opening of Arrack shops wherever possible, they had actually an Arrack shop in the Irwin Canal area. This, he thought, was opposed to the ideas of prohibition. He pointed out that the Income-tax showed a downward tendency exhibiting trade depression.

In regard to the Registration, he said that the estimate of the current year had been adopted for the next year, while in other cases, revised estimates had been adopted. He thought that the policy in such cases should be uniform.

Referring to the Assigned Tract Revenue, Mr. Raghavendrachar said that the surplus was becoming less and less every year, and that adequate representation should be made to the British Government to keep it at some normal figure.

THE DEWAN replied that a Datum Line of 13 lakhs was agreed upon with the British Government and any income over and above that datum line was divisible between the State and the British Government in the proportion of 4:1.

MR. RAGHAVENDRACHAR also pointed out that the cost of establishments in the various departments was increasing in spite of the Retrenchment Committee's proposals. He said that every attempt should be made to bring down expenditure. He also brought to the notice of Government Mr. Chatterton's view published in the "Capital" recently that the Department of Industries in Mysore was working at a loss on account of the incompetent management. He said that adequate steps should be taken to put the Industrial concerns on a proper footing. Mr. Raghavendrachar was strongly of opinion that better provision should be made for Primary Education in the State, even at the risk of closing the University for a couple of years. He also did not think it proper to spend a major portion of the allotment for economic development on establishments.

MR. P. SUBBARAMA CHETTY began by saying that he could not exactly say whether it was a deficit or a surplus budget in spite of the fact that the Dewan said that it was a prosperity Budget.

Seeing that the Budget took into account 10½ lakhs of rupees from the Subsidy and 9 lakhs from the Reserves, he thought that the Budget was really a deficit budget to the extent of about 20 lakhs of rupees. He did not favour the idea of utilising the Reserve for balancing the Budget.

THE DEWAN said that the amount utilised was from

the Irrigation Reserve Fund. This Fund was required to finance the Irrigation Works of the State, and while about 4 lakhs of rupees were utilised from the General Revenues towards the Irrigation Works, about Rs. 9 lakhs were taken out of Irrigation Reserve Fund. He added that if this had not been done, the Irrigation Works should have been starved.

MR. PUTTASWAMY pointed out that the Irrigation Reserve Fund was now completely exhausted and enquired what would be done in the future.

THE DEWAN replied that instead of Cash Irrigation Reserve Fund, there would be Irrigation Works yielding an annual revenue to the State.

When the year was prosperous as judged from the estimated receipts and when 10½ lakhs of rupees had also been utilised from the Subsidy, MR. SUBBARAMA CHETTY failed to see why the Irrigation Reserve Fund should have been drawn upon at all. He was also of opinion that the cash balance was being reduced year after year.

In regard to the Excise revenue, Mr. Subbarama Chetty said that the Excise revenue was increased step by step, and that definite steps should be taken to reduce that income by undertaking a policy of prohibition.

Pleading for the free High School education, he said that the fee-income from the High School department was only Rs. 85,000, which was nothing when compared with the large expenditure on Education that was met by Government.

In regard to the Department of Industries and Commerce, he said that all Government concerns except the Soap Factory were working at a loss, and in the absence of a correct profit and loss account indicated in the Budget, it was impossible to gauge what exactly was the loss under each head. He also thought that considering the large number of small industries in the State, the need for a large number of Mechanics to help such industries was greatly felt. Following the practice in Madras and elsewhere, he was of opinion that a considerable number of Mechanics should be appointed for the purpose of overhauling the machinery of each Mill.

He was also of opinion that the recent Government Order inviting Savings Bank Deposits at 5 per cent for five years, was prejudicial to the trade of the country. The better way for the Government to do was to start an Industrial Bank on the lines of the proposed Coffee Bank and the Land Mortgage Bank, for financing Industrial Works.

He pleaded for the abolition of the new Tolls as well

as for working the Mines under Government Agency as in Byrapore.

MR. S. N. M. RAZVI was not opposed to the utilisation of Reserves for financing the Irrigational Works. He only objected to the increase of expenditure on Establishments. Compared with the total income of 340 lakhs of rupees, he thought that expenditure on salaries to the extent of nearly 147 lakhs worked out at 50 per cent which was exorbitant.

THE DEWAN said that it was not right to make a general statement of that kind without going into the actual facts. Take for instance, the Education and Medical Departments which consisted mainly of establishments, and nearly the entire grant for these two departments was spent on establishments.

MR. RAZVI said that his object was solely to see that Establishment charges at least in other departments were reduced as far as possible. He also said that it was necessary to provide some money in the non-recurring Reserve.

THE DEWAN replied that some money could have been provided, but it was thought better to spend it on developments in the Agricultural Department, at Bhadravati and etc. For instance, a sum of Rs. 80,000 had been provided for the Creosoting Plant, about 1½ lakhs of rupees for Development Works in the Forest Department, and nearly a lakh for Agriculture. If no provision had been made for these departments, it would have been quite possible to carry all that money to the Reserve, but the Government thought that the money was better spent this way than by merely accumulating it in the Reserve Fund.

MR. S. N. M. RAZVI continuing observed that while ample provision had been made for the Mysore City Water Supply, no allotment was made in the Budget for the Bangalore City Water Supply. He also prayed for a more liberal grant for the development of Home Industries, the money spent on which would be considered an asset to the State.

While expressing gratification at the presentation of a surplus budget, MR. M. C. LINGE GOWDA said that the provision made for rural water supply was hardly adequate. Although the budget showed a provision of Rs. 1,19,000 for Drinking Water Wells in villages, a sum of Rs. 68,800 therefrom was meant for the Well Boring Section, leaving only Rs. 50,000 for Wells. He was of opinion that the provision made in the budget for Drinking Water Wells should be left intact, the Well Boring Section being either separately

provided for from any other source or abolished. He was sure there would be no opposition to this suggestion since the people had not been impressed with the experiments conducted by this section.

Speaking of the Tank Restoration Scheme he observed that only Rs. 3¼ lakhs were spent against a provision of Rs. 5½ lakhs allotted in the previous year and wondered what portion of the grant would be actually spent in the coming year. He said that everywhere the tanks were being silted up and there was a general complaint that Government did not pay sufficient attention to keep the tanks in an efficient condition.

Referring to Primary Education, Mr. Linge Gowda said that while the allotment for the current year was Rs. 15·20 lakhs that for the budget year was only Rs. 15·10 lakhs showing a reduction of about Rs. 9,800. Against the existing 8,000 village panchayets with a fair prospect of an additional 2,000 in the course of the year, there were only 5,000 primary schools. If each panchayet should at least have one school as indicated in the Dewan's speech, there would be need for another 5,000 schools. But he regretted that no extra provision was made for the year.

While appreciating the increase of Rs. 10,000 provided for establishment under Co-operation, he observed that no provision had been indicated for propaganda work and the increase of societies. He urged the need for opening more Depressed Classes' Societies and for appointing more Co-operative Inspectors.

In scrutinising the grants under Medical Aid, he remarked that the provision for Local Fund Dispensaries in the current budget was only Rs. 1,79,700 against Rs. 1,81,000, which was less than the previous year. This, he pointed out, gave no scope for increase of medical aid in the districts. It was essential to provide extra funds for opening more dispensaries which were a desideratum.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY drew the member's attention to the fact that Rs. 6,000 were provided for Rural Dispensaries.

MR. LINGE GOWDA, however, thought that with such meagre grant not more than 3 or 4 dispensaries could be opened.

He also observed that Village Improvement works required more attention and better grant.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH, who spoke next, laid special stress on the following points :—

(1) While there was an outcry for school buildings fot the past several years, the sum of Rs. 2 lakhs provided for the construction of primary school buildings should not have been allowed to lapse in 1927-28.

(2) With a view to equip every village with a school and a school building, it was necessary to provide at least Rs. 40 lakhs for expenditure on Primary Education. This was very urgent more especially as the villagers were required to pay education cess also in addition to other various cesses.

(3) There was no urgency for the increased grant to the University as higher education would benefit only a section of the population while the extension of primary education in the villages would afford education to the masses.

(4) The sum of Rs. 6,000 provided for additional Local Fund Dispensaries was hardly sufficient. Local Fund Dispensaries benefited mainly the municipal areas and not the villagers although a third of the local cess collected from them was spent on such dispensaries. If the benefit of medical aid should be extended to rural parts, each hobli headquarter should be given a dispensary as the jurisdiction of the existing hospitals extended over a large area of more than 20 miles.

THE DEWAN drew the pointed attention of the member to the fact that there was no place in India where greater facilities were provided in the matter of medical aid than in Mysore.

MR. MALLIAH maintained that that was not enough. He also pointed out the absence of provision of Relieving Medical Officers to act as substitutes when the permanent Medical Officer was called upon to leave the station on other duty.

(5) With regard to the Village Panchayets, the sum allotted was only Rs. 50,000 which gave each panchayet only Rs. 5. This was quite inadequate for items like lighting, sanitation, drainage, contingencies, etc. As a contrast with this, he pointed out the several lakhs of rupees granted to the two premier cities during the past 10 years. Seeing that the majority of tax-payers were in the villages he prayed that in future years at least a more substantial grant should be made.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL corrected the speaker by saying that inclusive of the Malnad Improvement and other grants, the provision came to more than Rs. 4,11,000.

THE DEWAN also observed that the policy of Government was to give larger grants, which would be done as funds permitted.

MR. VEMA REDDY suggested that provision should be made in the Budget for the construction of a suitable hall for holding the Assembly meetings since the arrangements in the present hall were so bad that what was spoken from the platform could not be heard at the extreme ends at all.

THE DEWAN replied that the question of constructing a building was under consideration and that plans and estimates were being prepared. Meanwhile, he promised to equip the hall with the loud speaker apparatus to remove the difficulty complained of, and also fit it with electric fans.

MR. VEMA REDDY thought that the provision of Rs. 1½ lakhs for Minor Tank Works out of a grant of Rs. 14 lakhs for Irrigation Works was quite inadequate to meet actual needs as several minor tanks were silted up.

THE DEWAN replied that there was no use making a larger provision for that item as it was very difficult to get a large number of minor tank works executed. As an instance in point he mentioned that out of Rs. 5 lakhs allotted in the previous year only Rs. 3½ lakhs were actually spent. So far as the Kolar District was concerned, the Dewan pointed out that a good number of tanks had been restored within the past few years.

In this connection MR. VEMA REDDY brought to the notice of the Dewan the case of the Kurandahalli tank, Malur Taluk, the contribution in respect of which was collected 12 years back but no work started till the present moment.

He also pointed out that the grant of Rs. 50,000 for Village Improvement Works was too meagre. With the object of enabling the Village Panchayets to carry on systematic improvements, he suggested that in every village *chavadi*, the map of the village indicating the pits to be filled up and the lantana, etc., to be cleared, should be suspended so that the inspecting officers might be able to gauge the progress made under the weekly labour system. He also added that the Panchayet Inspectors should carry on a rough survey of each village for this purpose.

THE REVENUE COMMISSIONER replied that the survey work was being done and that there was no need for the map suggested.

Referring to the income from local cesses, etc., MR. VEMA REDDY observed that the expenditure out of the local cess did not directly benefit the village at all. He wanted that at least 50 per cent of the cess collestions should be made over to the village in addition to the *amarai* so that

each panchayet might have some funds to make a good beginning. They should then be given the survey plan and some inducements by way of prizes and rewards should be held out to them for award at the District and Provincial Conferences. Unless some definite plan was adopted and liberal grants made to them annually, he was afraid that the ideal of improving the village would not be attained.

THE DEWAN replied that if non-officials would co-operate with the Government and assist them, in a more practical manner, it was quite possible to make substantial progress in Village Improvements.

At this stage, the Council rose for the day to re-assemble the next day at 8 A.M.